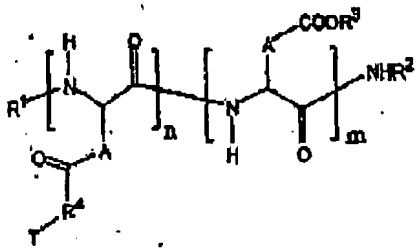
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A polyamino acid comprising aspartic units and/or glutamic units, characterized in that at least some of these units bear [grafts] side chains comprising at least one α-tocopherol unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1, characterized by the general formula (I) below:



(I)

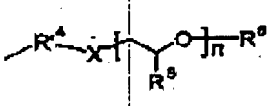
in which:

- R^1 represents H, a linear C2 to C10 or branched C3 to C10 acyl group, or a pyroglutamate;
- R^2 represents H, a C2 to C10 linear or C3 to C10 branched alkyl, benzyl or a terminal amino acid unit;
- R^3 is H or a cationic species preferably selected from the group [comprising] consisting of:
  - metallic cations advantageously chosen from the subgroup comprising sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium,
  - organic cations advantageously chosen from the subgroup comprising:
    - amine-based cations,
    - oligoamine-based cations,
    - cations based on polyamine [(polyethyleneimine being particularly preferred)],

10. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the molar degree of grafting is between 3% and 70% [and preferably between 5% and 50%].

11. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it bears at least one graft of polyalkylene glycol type linked to a glutamate and/or aspartate unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 11, of formula (II) below:



(II)

in which:

- R^4 represents a direct bond or a "spacer" based on 1 to 4 amino acid units;

- X is a hetero atom chosen from the group comprising oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur;

- R^5 and R^6 independently represent H or a linear C1 to C4 alkyl;

- n ranges from 3 to 1000.

13. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 12 [11 or 12], characterized in that [the polyalkylene glycol] a graft of polyalkylene glycol type linked to a glutamate and/or aspartate unit is a polyethylene glycol.

14. (Currently Amended) The polyamino acid as claimed in [any one of claims 11 to 13] claim 11, characterized in that the molar percentage of grafting of the polyalkylene glycol ranges from 1% to 30%.

15. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical, cosmetic, dietetic or plant-protection composition comprising at least one of the polyamino acids as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

16. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it comprises at least one active principle.

17. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 15 or 16, characterized in that the active principle is a protein, a glycoprotein, a polysaccharide, a liposaccharide, an oligonucleotide, a polynucleotide or a peptide.

18. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 16 or 17, characterized in that the active principle is a hydrophobic, hydrophilic or amphiphilic organic "small" molecule.

19. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18, characterized in that it may be administered via the oral, parenteral, nasal, vaginal, ocular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal, intracerebral or buccal route.

20. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 19, characterized in that it is in the form of a gel, an emulsion, a solution, a suspension, micelles, nanoparticles, microparticles, a powder or a film.

21. (Withdrawn) The composition is claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20, characterized in that it is a colloidal suspension of nanoparticles and/or microparticles and/or micelles of polyamino acids, in an aqueous phase.

22. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 19, characterized in that it is in the form of a solution in a biocompatible solvent and in that it is capable of being injected subcutaneously, intramuscularly or into a tumor.

23. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 22, characterized in that it is injectable and in that it is capable of forming a deposit at the site of injection.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 23, characterized in that it is for the preparation:

- of medicinal products, in particular for oral, nasal, vaginal, ocular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal or intracerebral administration, the active principles of these medicinal products possibly being, especially, proteins, glycoproteins, proteins linked to one or more polyalkylene glycol chains {for example polyethylene glycol (PEG), in which case they are referred to as "PEGylated" proteins}, peptides, polysaccharides, liposaccharides, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides and hydrophobic, hydrophilic or amphiphilic organic small molecules;
- and/or nutrients;
- and/or cosmetic or plant-protection products.

25. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation:

- of medicinal products, in particular for oral, nasal, vaginal, ocular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal or intracerebral administration, the active principles of these medicinal products possibly being, especially, proteins, glycoproteins, proteins linked to one or more polyalkylene glycol chains {for example polyethylene glycol (PEG), in which case they are referred to as "PEGylated" proteins}, peptides, polysaccharides, liposaccharides, oligonucleotides, polynucleotides and hydrophobic, hydrophilic or amphiphilic organic small molecules;
- and/or nutrients;
- and/or cosmetic or plant-protection products;

characterized in that it consists essentially in using at least one polyamino acid as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 23.